

Welcome to the Big Brothers Big Sisters In-School Mentoring (ISM) Program!

What is the Big Brothers Big Sisters In-School Mentoring Program?

- School-aged students are matched to caring, reliable mentors who have been screened.
- Mentors visit with the student one hour a week during the school year at a time deemed appropriate by both you, according to your class schedule, and the mentor, according to his or her schedule.
- All contact takes place at the school and during school hours – contact outside of these parameters is not permitted.

Who are the mentors?

- The volunteers are teens in grades 10, 11 or 12 who are caring, supportive, and non-judgmental with a keen interest in the welfare of young people.
- Volunteers are interviewed, screened, trained and supervised by the staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Langley.
- Volunteers complete an application, 4 references, a criminal record check, drivers abstract, an in-person interview, and a training session prior to acceptance into the agency.
- Volunteers do not take on the role of counselor, teacher, tutor, parent, or authority figure.

What will the student and his or her mentor do during their time together?

- Mentors and students spend their time in ways that are of interest to the child (i.e. physical activity, playing board games, visiting the school library, talking, drawing, making things).

What is my role as a teacher?

- Mentors could be allowed on field trips, but mentors must get agency approval prior to attending and the mentor must provide their own form of transportation to and from the destination.
- Help us identify teens you feel would be a good fit for this program, and encourage them to fill out an application
- Support students who are involved in this program, and provide a reference for a teen if they request it and as you feel comfortable.
- Refer students who are interested to talk to your Schools Liaison to obtain an application (or contact the agency directly)
- Please be flexible if a student is doing their mentorship over a lunch hour or spare by recognizing they may be a few minutes late to class returning from their mentorship time.

What else do I need to know?

- Mentoring relationships can continue over several years.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters will conduct an in-person follow-up with the student and volunteer halfway through their match and at the end of the school year. This process is to ensure the student has had a good experience with the program, with his or her mentor, and vice versa.

How can I refer a student to be a little buddy in this program?

- School staff should speak with the family to see if they are interested in participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters ISM Program. If needed, I can help to provide the parents more information or answer any questions they may have.
- Ask the School Liaison to provide families with an application form, which will be completed and returned to the school.

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